



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/512,910	02/25/2000	Matin Stevens Smith	584-1021	6978
23644	7590	07/28/2005	EXAMINER	
BARNES & THORNBURG P.O. BOX 2786 CHICAGO, IL 60690-2786			NGUYEN, THUAN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2685	

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/512,910

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

THUAN T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8,10-19 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8,10-13,15-19 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 8, and 10- 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. Claims 6-7, 9 and 20 were cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
4. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stilp et al. (US Patent 6,184,829 B1) .

Regarding claim 19, Stilp discloses this claimed limitation for a fixed wireless communication network, comprising subscriber stations and a plurality of base stations, and subscriber stations communicates to base stations via a communications link comprising a plurality of channels, and the location of base stations and frequency of each communication link (communication channels) are selected based on a fixed frequency plan (refer to Stilp, col. 10/lines 29-54 for a fixed frequency plan within a fixed wireless communication system, and Fig. 2K, and col. 27/line 39 to col. 28/line 19).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rappaport (US Patent 6,317,599 B1) in view of Stilp et al. (US Patent 6,184,829 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Rappaport discloses a method and a system for designing or deploying a communications network which considers frequency dependent effects, i.e., by monitoring network link performance between mobile users while still keep maintaining maximum capacity and efficiency, or namely, network optimization; and estimates of link budgets are calculated, if a proposed change is better than the current network deployment, the system can automatically adjust and perform the optimization process. In other words, based on the network prediction or actual link performance, the proposed change can be made to the system based on link performance (see Figs. 1-15, and col. 3/line 29 to col. 4/line 45 as network components such as transceivers or base station can be placed and refined to other locations for accommodating the overall layout of the network design and alternate physical layouts, see more at col. 9/line 55 to col. 11/line 19; and col. 15/line 20 to col. 16/line 12 as predictions for RSSI and/or the SNR is taken into account for evaluating the network performance).

Rappaport does not mention the step of adding of an additional subscriber station to the communications network as well as the selection of channel and base station for the additional subscriber station on the basis of a fixed frequency plan after the fixed wireless access communications network has been deployed; however, Stilp teaches the same technique as within Stilp's system, based on a fixed frequency plan (Stilp, col. 10/lines 39-63), a new mobile subscriber station is introduced, a new channel is allocated for the new mobile station associated to a new base station based on the calibration process after the fixed wireless access communications network has been deployed (Stilp, Figs. 1A & 2K and col. 26/line 8 to col. 27/line 53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rappaport's system with Stilp's teaching technique of channel allocation for a new mobile subscriber and locations for base stations as noted in order to provide an enhanced system that can dynamically offer the proposed change in network configuration including the addition of mobile subscriber stations based on network performance using the calibration process as taught by Stilp.

As for claim 2, this limitation of determination 'the predicted level of link performance on the basis of location of each base station and the communication links between the base stations and the base station' is met by Rappaport (col. 14/line 14 to col. 15/line 37 as locations of base stations and mobile stations can be predicted and determined based on some predetermined factors).

As for claim 3, this claim met by Stilp as noted above for a fixed frequency plan.

As for claim 4, Rappaport shows the measuring of link performance (col. 3/lines 40-56 & col. 9/lines 15-29).

As for claim 5, in further view of claim 1 above, Stilp teaches the addition of new mobile subscriber keeps on hold and not affecting the system change if at least one of the determined levels of link performance is not greater than the specified level (Fig. 2C-1, if the power as link performance is below a threshold, the system requires the wireless system to cease the operation at a predetermined time).

As for claim 8, this claim is met by Rappaport as the channel selection on the basis of information about the communications network in an arbitrary manner (col. 4/lines 1-47 as the designer is free in an arbitrary manner to modify the configuration of the system as needed).

As for claim 10, this limitation is met as Rappaport can add components to the provisioning system, not limited to channels from pre-assigned channel clusters for communication (col. 13/lines 44-63).

As for claim 11, Rappaport discloses wherein the specified level of link performance level is different for different subscriber stations (col. 14/line 53 to col. 15/line 37 as different locations concerns different parameters, RSSI and many other features).

As for claim 12, Rappaport further mention this predicted link performance levels are determined based on the basis of estimated link budgets (col. 13/line 64 to col. 14/line 13 as the designer can modify the component's cost by replacing and has some options to work around).

As for claim 13, this claim is met as Rappaport discloses as prediction configuration can be based on RSSI, C/I and/or C/N, which suggests a combination of these estimation for calculating noises and interference levels of surrounding cells (col. 15/lines 20-37).

As for claim 15, this claim is met as described earlier in claim 1 in view of Stilp.

Art Unit: 2685

As for claim 16, Rappaport meets this claim since Rapport does not use a fixed frequency plan.

As for claims 17-18, these claims are rejected for the reasons given in the scope of claim 1 as discussed in details above.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As for claim 14, the closest prior arts of record issued to Rappaport and Stilp do not further suggest a method of deploying a fixed wireless access communications network as cited in combined claim 1 and claim 5 AND the additional step of further “comprises the step of calculating a ratio of a number of additional subscriber stations placed on hold to a number of requests including a proposed change to the communications network comprising the proposed additional of an additional subscriber station” as cited in claim 14.

Conclusion

9. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

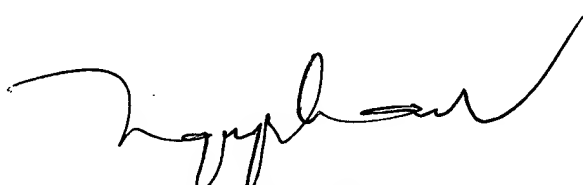
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Art Unit: 2685

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Thuan Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7895. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



TONY T. NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER

Tony T. Nguyen
Art Unit 2685
July 14, 2005